



May 10, 2006

Board At Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Governor praises Pattonville's approach with math

Pattonville's "Algebra for ALL" program contributed to significant increase in test scores

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt recently visited an Algebra for ALL class at Holman Middle School as a way to emphasize the importance of math comprehension. The visit followed a math and science summit that Blunt convened in April to identify ways to ensure students have the tools they need for long-term success. During his visit to Pattonville, Blunt touted the district's Algebra for ALL program (see sidebar for description) and commended Pattonville for changing its curriculum to improve its math program for students.



Gov. Matt Blunt visits Tim McKinley's "Algebra for ALL" class at Holman Middle School. Here he visits with Kyli Zoller, left, and Tigre' Smith.

"I want to commend you for that, and I think it's the type of thing that needs to happen across the state," Blunt said. During his visit in Pattonville, Blunt visited Tim McKinley's Algebra for ALL class at Holman and met with a group of parents, teachers, school board members and administrators to talk about what's working in math and science education and what could be done to improve it. He ended his visit with a press conference.

Pattonville has seen significant improvement in test scores since beginning the algebra program. Algebra for ALL was implemented in the 2003-04 school year.

"This was the first year all freshmen took algebra and lower track classes were eliminated," said Dr. Mike Fulton, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. "This raised the bar for ALL students and resulted in the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on MAP increasing from 12 percent in spring 2003, which was below the state average, to 21 percent in spring 2005, which is above the state average."

In addition, the percent of students scoring at the lowest two levels (Step 1 and Progressing) dropped 18 percent during this time period. Improved scores were evident in every subcategory of Pattonville's student population (e.g. students living in poverty, ethnicity, students with disabilities). At the middle school, Algebra for ALL contributed to Remington Traditional School being on Missouri's Top 10 list for math performance and Holman Middle School making Missouri's Top 10 most improved list.

About Algebra for ALL in Pattonville

What sets Algebra for ALL in Pattonville apart from other math programs:

- All low-track math classes were eliminated at the high school and all ninth-graders are required to take Algebra for ALL (it's optional at middle school, where students who pass it can receive high school credit)
- Algebra for ALL requires students to master 80 percent of the subject matter of different units (called competencies) in order to pass the class.
- At the high school, students are regrouped every nine weeks based on whether or not they pass the competencies. Those that pass, move on to the next module. Those that do not pass repeat the module. Typically, students complete the program in one year. Some students take longer than a year to complete the class.

Guidance program serves students' needs

School counselors provide range of support to individual students, families and staff

Pattonville's guidance program is designed to assist students in educational planning, developing decision-making skills, facilitating personal growth and development, and enhancing skills for college, career and other opportunities after high school graduation.

Counseling services are provided for all students and their families from the initial screening associated with kindergarten services to post-high school planning. The program is a blend of two types of counseling services:

- Responsive Services – Services which offer individual support and planning in response to individual needs; and,
- Counseling Curriculum – A K-12 series of sequential activities developed for all students focusing on personal, emotional, social, and academic growth.

A recent evaluation of Pattonville's counseling program showed that the district is being successful in meeting the goals of the program (shown in list at right). The range of services provided include individual student counseling, group counseling, support for college or career planning, assistance with educational plans and referrals to other agencies in the community. Counselors also present lessons in the classroom related to social skills, decision-making, planning and character education. A student survey identified areas where students would like more assistance, including areas such as exploring careers and improving study skills. Changes are being made to accommodate student's needs as highlighted in the survey.



Counseling Goals

Pattonville's guidance program has the following goals in serving students and families:

- Responsive services (services which offer individual support and planning) are provided to students based on individual needs;
- Guidance counselors provide consultative support for the educational program;
- Guidance counselors consult and provide support to staff and parents regarding the needs and development of students;
- Students are provided support to plan their options for employment or continued education after graduating from high school; and
- Students are provided instruction through the guidance curriculum that helps with their personal, social and educational development.

Recommendations for Future

Recommendations for continuing to enhance Pattonville's guidance program are to:

- Continue to focus efforts on providing educational supports to assist in student learning, including continued training on Response to Intervention (Problem Solving);
- Continue to analyze the student survey data to determine what adjustments may be needed to better respond to the needs of students in the district; and
- Continue to assist individual students through individual or small group counseling or through referrals to outside agencies for long-term counseling support.

Share this newsletter with a friend.

If you know of someone who might enjoy keeping up to date on Pattonville, please forward this newsletter to your friend. Anyone can sign up to receive the latest news and information from Pattonville via e-mail by sending an e-mail message to PSDnews@psdr3.org.

Fifth Time's the Charm...

- The state of Missouri last week recognized the Pattonville School District with a special trophy for earning its fifth consecutive Distinction in Performance Award for academic excellence. Pattonville earned its latest Distinction in Performance Award after scoring a perfect 100 out of 100 points on its 2005 Annual Performance Report (APR) issued by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The district met 12 out of 12 standards related to academic achievement in the 2004-05 school year. Pattonville received the same award the previous four years for meeting all of the standards measured on the report: Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores, reading proficiency, ACT scores, students taking advanced courses and vocational courses, college placement, vocational placement, dropout rate and attendance. In addition, each year, Pattonville earned a perfect score on the performance report. Each year, DESE releases an Annual Performance Report for each district in the state, which shows the district's status on the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) performance standards using current data that DESE has on file. Congratulations to the entire Pattonville school family for its remarkable efforts on behalf of children.

Employees of the Year...

- Congratulations to our new employees of the year. **Kevin Beckner**, a social studies teacher at Pattonville High School, was named Pattonville Teacher of the Year during District Appreciation Night May 1, and **Charles Roach**, custodian at Holman Middle School, was named Support Staff Employee of the Year. These are two great examples of the outstanding caliber of employees we have working in Pattonville on behalf of our students.



Kevin Beckner



Charles Roach

Gold Award...

- Pattonville High School Student Council was recently awarded the Missouri Association of Student Councils Gold Award. The honor is based on criteria that includes having a comprehensive program that promotes student activities and student leadership. Activities include school service, spirit, community service, student and teacher recognition and leadership training activities. The recognition also honored **Pete Barrett** for his leadership as the council's advisor.

Put on Your Walking Shoes...

- I hope everyone can come out for our annual Pattonville Wellness Run/Walk on Saturday, May 13. The 5K run/walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Pattonville High School and will be followed by a new one-mile medal run/walk for children. The cost is \$9 per participant or \$24 for a family of three or more. Registration forms are available at any Pattonville school office, or you may contact the district wellness coordinator, Claire Steiner, at 314-213-8010. The annual run/walk is designed to unite schools and the local community by encouraging family fun, fitness and wellness.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh A. Kinney".



Calendar

Of Events

Wednesday, May 10

- Pattonville Heights Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- Briar Crest First-Grade "Bug Boogie," 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 11

- Positive School Honors Assembly, 10 a.m.
- Bridgeway Buzz Session, 6:30 p.m.
- Rose Acres First-Grade Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- High School Vocal and Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- Remington Parent Forum, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 12

- Remington dismissed early at 11:10 a.m., elementary at 11:55 a.m.
- Parents As Teachers "Digging with Dads," 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 13

- Pattonville Wellness Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m., High School

Monday, May 15

- Characterplus Committee, 4:15 p.m., Learning Center
- Remington Eighth-Grade Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- Holman Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Pattonville Heights PTO, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16

- Drummond Volunteer Lunch, 11 a.m.
- Board of Education meeting with Maryland Heights officials, 6 p.m., Learning Center
- English Language Learners (ELL) Family Night, 6 p.m., Pattonville Heights
- Rose Acres Fifth-Grade Recognition, 6:30 p.m.
- Pattonville Heights Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- Remington Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17

- Parkwood Volunteer Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
- High School Ninth, 10th and 11th Grade Awards, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 18

- Remington Volunteer Appreciation, 9 a.m.
- High School Spring Sports Awards, 6:30 p.m.
- Professional Studies, 6:30 p.m., Learning Center
- Pattonville Heights Coffee House, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 19

- Public observation, 8:30 p.m., planetarium/observatory at Pattonville Heights

Saturday, May 20

- Rose Acres Picnic, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Vago Park

Monday, May 22

- Pattonville Heights Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.
- Last day of attendance for high school seniors

Tuesday, May 23

- Holman Awards Program, 8:30 a.m.
- High school finals, classes dismissed early at 10:30 a.m.
- Board of Education, 7 p.m., Holman Middle School

Wednesday, May 24

- OASIS Tutor Appreciation Luncheon, 11 a.m., Learning Center
- High school finals, classes dismissed early at 10:30 a.m.
- Holman Eighth-Grade Farewell Celebration, 12:45 p.m.
- Rose Acres Variety Show, 6:30 p.m., Community Auditorium at Pattonville High School

Thursday, May 25

- Last day of school
- High school finals, classes dismissed early at 10:30 a.m.
- Remington Eighth-Grade Breakfast /Awards, 8:15 a.m.
- Willow Brook Fifth-Grade Recognition, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 26

- Report Day for Staff

Monday, May 29

- Memorial Day Holiday, All Offices Closed

Wednesday, May 31

- Senior Awards Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 1

- High School Commencement, 7 p.m., UMB Bank Pavilion

Tuesday, June 6

- High school summer school starts
- Pattonville Education Foundation, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 8

- Pattonville Alumni Association, 7 p.m.



Business Bits

Paying the Bills

The Board of Education on May 9 approved paying:

- \$894,557.90 for regular bills;
- \$97,606.83 for cafeteria bills; and
- \$4,667.69 to Kohn, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis and Giljum for legal services.

Bid Awards

The Board of Education on May 9 approved the following awards:

- \$6,920 to Reinhold Electric Company for electrical wiring at the Pattonville High School stadium; and
- \$16,850 to Topps Asphalt for the repair of the asphalt driveway at Pattonville Heights Middle School.

Other

The Board of Education on May 9:

- Approved a proclamation declaring May 10 as School Nurse Day in the Pattonville School District; and
- Approved the purchase of supplies and equipment from vendors represented in the Catalogue Discount Agreement Handbook for the 2006-07 school year.

New Hires

- **Beth Lewis**, community relations specialist, Learning Center
- **LaVon Whitman**, district courier, Print Shop
- **James “Billy” Thompson**, third-grade teacher, Willow Brook

Your Board of Education

Ron Kuschel, President
Ruth Petrov, Vice President/Secretary
Randy McArthur, Treasurer
Pat Bryant, Director
Cindy Candler, Director
Keith Gillming, Director
Ralph Stahlhut, Director